

INN 03 ~ QUESTIONS

1. What exactly is the primary purpose of the proposed Center? Is it to build a cultural bridge to bring people in who are in need of help into our existing mental health services? Or, is it to provide these alternative treatment services? (See boxes on Page 1 of Exhibit C.)
2. The proposal was amended to take out the reference to providing service at the center. But, there is a statement that alternative practices will be used. Which is it? Are we going to offer these alternative services, which we all know involve spiritual or religious practices, at the Center or are we not?
3. The proposal says there is to be approximately two staff members from each of the targeted cultural/ethnic groups, with approximately 10 total on staff. Which 5 cultural/ethnic groups are our target?
4. There are lots of questions about the staff of the Center. According to the proposal, these staff members are to be regarded as facilitators or experts in the alternative forms of healing. Regarded by whom? Do we intend for the staff members to be practitioners of these alternative forms of healing? How will it be determined if someone is a facilitator or expert? At the mental health hearing on this plan, job descriptions were requested, but none have been forthcoming. Exactly what will staff members do? Before they open the doors, or before any staff member begins work with individuals coming to the Center will they be required to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of mental illnesses, our existing treatment methods, and our existing county programs?
5. A substantial percentage of Hispanics, African American, and South East Asians are Christians. Will our staff include those who are familiar with the alternatives that priests or ministers offer, and will they make referrals to an agency that can refer the individual on to priests and ministers, or directly to priests or ministers?
6. When the proposal talks about referral and linkage, will the Center refer individuals directly to practitioners of these alternative services, or will they as our existing policy states "...provide consumers with a

referral list of agencies that can assist consumers in accessing cultural-based/alternative healers...”?

7. If we are talking about direct referral and linkage, how would we qualify someone to be on this list? Would they have to have some knowledge of our county’s mental health system, the treatments offered, and the programs available?
8. Will this Center be truly focused on bringing in those not presently engaged with county mental health, or will there be outreach to our existing consumer population to draw them into what the proposal describes at one point as “alternative treatment methods”, perhaps even as a substitute for their current mental health treatment and medications?
9. Specifically what will be done at this Center, and what will not be done? And who will do it? What will be their job descriptions? And what training or qualifications are they to have?
10. Who specifically will be on the Advisory Council?
11. If we aren’t paying for the alternative healers or any of their services, why can’t we say that specifically?